

REMARKS:

At the time of the Office Action, claims 9-14 were pending. Claims 9-14 stand rejected. Pursuant to this amendment, claims 9 and 12 have been amended, and claim 11 has been cancelled. Claims 9, 10 and 12-14 remain pending in the subject application.

Claims 9, 10 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Lo et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,019,557). Claims 11, 12 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lo et al. in view of Church et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,381,362) and Rosan (U.S. Patent No. 2,685,320). These rejections are traversed for at least the following reasons.

Without agreeing with the Examiner as to what is or is not taught by the cited references, independent claim 9 has been amended to more clearly define what it is the applicants regard as their invention. More specifically, claim 9 has been amended to include the limitations of now cancelled claim 11, thereby making the 102(b) rejection in view of Lo et al. moot. In addition, claim 9 has been amended to further recite that during the step of press fitting, knurls formed on the outer surface of the shank engage a wall defining the opening in the washer body, such that once the washer body and nut body are pressed together, the knurls extend from inside the washer body along substantially that portion of the shank that is exposed outside the washer body. Lo et al. fail to teach or suggest such an arrangement, and Church et al. and Rosan fail to correct the deficiencies of Lo et al., thereby making claim 9 patentable over the cited references.

Claims 10 and 12-14 depend from claim 9, and, therefore, are allowable for the same reasons applied thereto as well as for the additional subject matter recited in each.

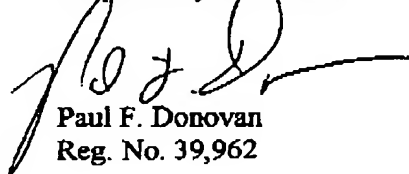
No new matter has been added by way of the amendments and remarks made herein.

Reconsideration and allowance of all the pending claims is respectfully requested. In the event that there are any remaining issues that need to be addressed, in order to expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number indicated below.

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Respectfully submitted,



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